

Fairfax County Crime Statistics for 2009

Index Crime, 2005-2009

Part 1 Index Crime	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2008-09 % Change
<i>Violent Crime</i>						
Murder	22	19	13	22	14	-36.4%
Rape	94	73	95	95	105	10.5%
Robbery	484	572	597	450	386	-14.2%
Aggravated Assault	379	334	339	386	309	-19.9%
<i>Property Crime</i>						
Burglary	1,345	1,580	1,409	1,438	1,385	-3.7%
Larceny	14,488	13,075	14,244	16,244	15,643	-3.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,599	1,455	1,459	1,288	1,096	-14.9%
Total Violent Crime	979	998	1,044	953	814	-14.6%
Total Property Crime	17,432	16,110	17,112	18,970	18,124	-4.5%
Total Index Crime	18,411	17,108	18,156	19,923	18,938	-4.9%

We had a reduction in six of the seven categories for 2009 as compared to 2008. We had an increase in the number of reported rapes.

Overall, reported index crime for 2009 decreased 4.94%. As to the sub-categories, violent crime decreased 14.6% and reported property crime decreased 4.5%, driven primarily by a decrease in reported larcenies. As you may recall, an increase in larcenies has been driving significant overall index crime increases for us the past few years. Larceny is the largest category by raw numbers and, statistically, any increase or decrease in this category generally accounts for much of any increase or decrease in the overall index crime.

I'm pleased with the overall decrease, and, in particular, the significant decrease in violent crime. However, we are still higher in overall index crime than we were in several years prior to 2008. Of course, this is just a raw number and not calculated against any population increase to provide the crime rate - a rate we have traditionally enjoyed as very low comparatively.

Violent crime is always a primary focus, as we no one deserves to be a victim of any crime, and in particular a violent one. We have, for example, targeted robbery for the past few years, following a significant increase in 2006 and a lesser one in 2007, and our efforts have been successful. One of our key anti-crime strategies is our focus at each station and in our Criminal Investigations Bureau and elsewhere on repeat offenders. Historically, a small percentage of offenders commit a high percentage of crimes, and we have made it a priority to focus on them and to work in partnership across the criminal justice system to ensure they get the appropriate attention.

For property crimes, combating burglaries are an ongoing priority. Although we have both residential and commercial ones, it is the residential ones that always concern me due to the possibility of a confrontation within someone's home. Our repeat offender strategy is key in this area as well, as a few people in each district often account for multiple burglaries, and we continually deal with some of the same players we have arrested over the years. Arrest, court, conviction, serve their sentence, and then back out to doing burglaries is a common theme for some.

For larcenies, larcenies from vehicles continue to account for a significant percentage of this category. GPS units, iPods, phones, etc., are all continuing hot targets. So many are simply taken from unlocked vehicles, or from ones in which the items are left in plain view. And while there is good news in the category of vehicle theft, which continues to decrease each year, some of that is countered in the increase in the larceny category. Some offenders are simply more sophisticated and bold than they were previously, and instead of stealing the car to take parts off elsewhere, they now remove the parts from the vehicle where it sits. Therefore, it counts as a larceny, but not a car theft. Air bags are one of the targeted items.

Colonel Dave Rohrer
Chief of Police